

The Germans considered all Poles to be an inferior race. After Poland was conquered, German authorities expelled much of the native Polish population from regions of the newly annexed territories. Polish cities were given German names and German settlers were colonized on Polish land. In occupied Poland, the Nazi governor, Hans Frank, proclaimed: "Poles will become slaves in the German Reich."

The Nazis set out to destroy Polish culture. Thousands of Polish teachers, politicians, university professors, and artists were executed or sent to Nazi concentration camps. Catholic priests were among the main targets of Nazi mass murder in Poland.

In fact, Auschwitz was created as an internment camp for Polish dissidents. And thousands of Poles were murdered alongside the Jews in Auschwitz.

Many Poles risked their lives to save Jews:

Irena Sendler was a young social worker in Warsaw. She used her position to smuggle 200 Jewish children out of the ghetto to safe houses. In 1943, Sendler was arrested by the gestapo, brutally tortured and condemned to death. On the day of her execution, she was freed with the help of the Jewish underground.

Irena Adamowicz, a Polish Catholic, aided in establishing contacts between the Jewish Underground and the main Polish resistance organization.

Jan Karksi, who, while working for the Polish Government in exile, was one of the few outsiders to visit the Warsaw Ghetto. He appealed to the allies to do something.

These are just a few examples. But as a Polish-American, it pains me to know that these brave patriots were a minority. The majority of Poles, like the majority of Europeans, were neither killers nor victims. Most merely stood by, neither collaborating, nor coming to the aid of the victims. This passivity amounted to acquiescence.

Eli Weisel, a survivor of Auschwitz, visited Auschwitz 25 years after the liberation. He wrote:

I hadn't realized how near the village was. I had thought of it as worlds distant from the camp. But the villagers could see what was happening behind the barbed wire, could hear the music as the labor details trudged to work and back again. How did they manage to sleep at night? How could they go to mass on Sunday, attend weddings, laugh with their children, while a few paces away human beings despaired of the human race.

Many years later, Eli Weisel was awarded the Nobel Prize. This week he led the American delegation to Auschwitz.

As a Polish-American, I traveled to Poland in the late 1970's. I was a Congresswoman. And I wanted to see my heritage. I went to the small village where my family came from. It was a very moving and historic experience.

But I also wanted to see the dark side of my history, and I went to Auschwitz.

In touring Auschwitz, it was an incredibly moving experience to go through the gate, to see the sign, to go

to see the chambers. I went to a cell that had been occupied by Father Kolbe, a Catholic priest, who gave his life for a Jewish man there.

And then, for those of you who don't know, I'm a social worker, I've been a child abuse worker and I don't flinch.

But then I got half way through that tour and I came to a point in that tour where I saw the bins with glasses and the children's shoes, and this 40-something year old Congresswoman could not go on.

I became unglued. I had to remove myself from the small tour, go off into a private place in Auschwitz, cry in a way that shook my very soul. And when I left there, I thought, now I really know why we need an Israel.

And that is why I will fight so hard to ensure the survival of Israel. I know its importance. I know why it exists.

I also know why it is so important for us educate our young people—about the effects of hatred, about the importance of history.

Several years ago, I helped my friend Mark Talisman to create a living memorial to the Jews of Poland—called Project Judaica. Through its cultural center, its international education programs, and its rescue of Jewish artifacts, Project Judaica seeks to educate people about the rich history of the Polish Jews. Project Judaica's Center for Jewish History and Culture is in Krakow, near the village my family is from.

In closing, I would like to read the words of Eli Weisel:

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky. Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever.

Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God himself.

Mr. President, 50 years after the liberation of Auschwitz, let us pledge never to forget. And let us honor those who died in the holocaust by fighting against bigotry, hate crimes, and intolerance.

U.S. ARMY STAFF SGT. CARL A. CLEMENT A NEW HAMPSHIRE HERO

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to salute U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Carl A. Clement, from Sunapee, NH, who died January 10, 1995, from injuries suffered in an automobile accident while serving his country in South Korea.

The accident that took the life of this fine young man was a terrible tragedy for his family and for the State of New Hampshire. Carl was born in Newport, NH. He is the son of Charles

and Mary Clement and graduated from Sunapee High School in 1983, where he received the outstanding athlete award. Carl was married to Sandra Clement, of Lawton, OK. They have two daughters, Jacqueline Amalia and Pamela Megan Clement.

Carl joined the Army on July 5, 1983, and he was stationed at Fort Sill in OK, prior to his tour of duty in Korea. He left for Korea in March 1994 where he served as a generator mechanic. The Clement family can be proud of Carl and his service to the United States. Carl was an outstanding soldier, devoted family man, and trusted friend.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am honored to have represented Staff Sgt. Clement and his family in the U.S. Senate. Sergeant Carl Clement joins a distinguished list of New Hampshire patriots who have given their lives in the service of their country.

#### WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE?— THE VOTERS SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business on Thursday, January 26, the Federal debt stood at \$4,801,405,175,294.28 meaning that on a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,226.22 as his or her share of that debt.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached Las Vegas Sun article by Nevada's former Governor Mike O'Callaghan on President Clinton's proposal to raise the minimum wage be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

##### STOP WHINING; PAY WORKERS

Whine, whine, whine.

The sky is going to fall in if the minimum wage is raised. If you listen to the Republican-led whine choir, it assures us that small businesses will collapse and thousands of teenage hamburger flippers will be fired if the minimum wage rises from \$4.25 to \$5 an hour.

Let's be honest, any business today that doesn't have the ability to pay its workers \$5 an hour probably should collapse if it hasn't already. You can't convince a thinking American that the newly suggested minimum wage will do anything but help the working poor and, in the long run, improve the economy. A quick glance at past minimum wage increases will show that they have been a plus, not a negative, for the working poor and the economy.

I was proud of President Bill Clinton when he said in his State of the Union address:

"Members of Congress have been here less than a month; 28 days into the new year, every member of Congress will have earned as much in congressional salary as a minimum-wage worker makes all year long."

Earlier, he had pointed out that there are "2½ million Americans, often women with children," who now work for \$4.25 an hour.